GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2737
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
ERADICATION OF FLOURINE AND ARSENIC IN WATER
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have been allocated special funds to eradicate flourine and arsenic poison in water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Union Government is monitoring the proper utilisation of funds?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) to (c) `Water` being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to eradicate flouride and arsenic poison in water. Ministry of Water Resources have not allocated any special funds for this purpose. However, the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. In order to provide focused attention to tackle water quality problems, Sub-Mission guidelines under ARWSP have been revised in February, 2006, wherein, 20% of ARWSP funds is retained at the Centre and released to States on need-basis, after the State Government submit formal request along with the list of projects, habitation-wise, sanctioned by its State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee. They have prescribed monthly reports for monitoring physical and financial progress under the above scheme.